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SENSITIVE
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TAGS: [KDEM](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PINR](#) [SOCI](#) [SO](#)

SUBJECT: SOMALIA - SOMALILAND'S PRESIDENT RIYALE SEEMS TO
STALL ON ELECTION COUNCIL NOMINEES

REF: NAIROBI 2010

¶1. (SBU) Summary: In October 9 conversations, opposition Kulmiye party Chairman Ahmed Silanyo and UCID opposition party Chairman Ali Faisal Warabe told Somalia Unit that they and the Council of Elders (Guurti) had nominated their combined four candidates to the National Election Council (NEC), but that President Riyale had still not announced his three nominees. Warabe and Silanyo suspected that Riyale might be attempting to brake progress toward the often-postponed presidential elections. Silanyo admitted, however, that lobbying and strategizing by those in Riyale's inner circle or among clan elders might be the source of the delay. The opposition party Chairmen urged international community pressure and reported that they had alerted the British Charge in Addis Ababa to Riyale's foot-dragging. Ambassador Ranneberger will make our concerns about the slower-then-expected pace of the process known to President Riyale in a telephone call planned for the weekend of October 19. End summary.

¶2. (SBU) In an October 9 conversation, Somaliland's UCID opposition party Chairman Ali Faisal Warabe told Somalia Unit that the Guurti, his party, and the opposition Kulmiye party had all nominated their replacement candidates to the National Election Council (NEC). (Note: Following the signing by the three party Chairmen of a six-point framework agreement, the incumbent NEC members had resigned. President Riyale's UDUB party was to nominate three replacement NEC members, the Guurti was to have nominated two, and the two opposition parties were to suggest one nominee each. End note.) Warabe, while admitting that Riyale was a "very slow guy," worried that Riyale's failure to date to nominate could be part of a larger strategy to delay progress on the election process at every step, thus allowing Riyale to remain President as long as possible. Warabe said he had alerted the British Charge John Marshall in Addis Ababa of the delay and encouraged his intervention. Warabe hoped that a timetable leading to the elections could be agreed not later than October 29. He said that Kulmiye Chairman Silanyo and he would press, at a three-party meeting that could occur on October 10, for a strict timetable.

¶3. (SBU) In a conversation the same day, opposition Kulmiye party Chairman Ahmed Silanyo reiterated his belief that the key to successful elections was a newly-constituted NEC. Silanyo thought it possible that Riyale had delayed announcement of his three candidates because he was being intensely lobbied, both by his inner circle, and by relevant clan elders. Silanyo said he had urged Riyale on October 8 to move ahead quickly, before Somalilanders become restive. He had told the same to the press, Silanyo said. Silanyo had set his own deadline for Riyale of October 10. He urged

international pressure in order to get the President to act.

¶4. (SBU) Embassy has tentatively scheduled a telephone call for Ambassador Ranneberger with Riyale for the weekend of October 9 in order to underscore the importance of moving quickly to elections.

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